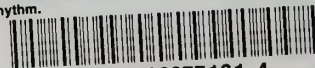


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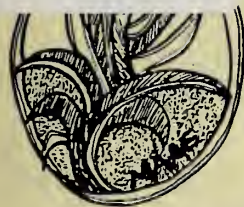
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the newsletter for the
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P.O. Box 2264 • Kalispell, MT 59903
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Rhythm and the Montana Alliance for Arts Education are supported, in part, by grants from the Montana Cultural Trust and the John F. Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network

Fall 2000



Pictured left is past MAAE Chairman Corky Clairmont presenting National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Bill Ivey with a remembrance during Ivey's recent visit to Missoula. Ivey announced the first increase since 1992 in NEA Congressional funding during his visit.

MAAE Plans Legislative Arts Education Week

Plans are being finalized for the biennial Arts Education Awareness Week, set for Helena during the 2001 Legislature. Designed to raise awareness among lawmakers of the breadth and quality of arts education programs statewide, student performers and visual artists will perform and have art works on display. If your student musicians or drama students would be interested in performing as part of the Capitol Rotunda activities, contact the MAAE office at 257-5243 for details. Deadline is January 15, 2001.

Terry Thall Named Art Educator of the Year

Great Falls art teacher Terry Thall was named Montana Art Educator of the Year at the recent Montana Art Educators Association meeting in Billings. Terry has been instrumental in establishing a strong art program for the Great Falls students and has been active in arts education advocacy and leadership across the state. Congratulations, Terry!

National PTA Magazine Suggests Advocacy Ideas

In the July/August, 2000 edition of "Our Children: The National PTA Magazine," there appears an article by Dick Deasy, director of the Arts Education Partnership, titled "The Arts: An Essential Form of Literacy."

In it, he offers three ways that PTA members, parents, and community citizens can advocate for arts education for all children: **first, learn about the benefits of arts education; second, become informed about how, and by whom funds are allocated in your school district, and third, build partnerships in the school and community with those who support the arts.**

As Deasy notes, "School administrators need to know that the community supports arts education." He concludes, "Good schools require the arts!"

In other PTA news, information about the Reflections Program which encourages students to participate in the arts is available through the website: www.pta.org/programs/reflect/00/index.htm.

MAAE Surveys Candidates Regarding Arts Education

Early this fall, the MAAE sent a survey to all candidates for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Montana State Senate and Montana State House of Representatives. Nearly 300 surveys were mailed to the candidates, including all Constitution, Democrat, Libertarian, Reform, and Republican candidates. The list of candidates was supplied by the Montana Department of Elections. The responses to this survey appear on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. Only those candidates who returned the survey by the deadline are listed.

"The MAAE has surveyed candidates in the past about their knowledge and interest regarding arts education, and MAAE members have found this information helpful when meeting and discussing issues with the candidates," said MAAE Chairman Leslie DeVos.

Each candidate was asked to respond to the following questions:

- 1) **Do you attend arts events in your community?**
☐ Regularly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Never
- 1a) **Do you attend visual/performing arts events in your schools?**
☐ Regularly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Never
- 2) **Visual and performing arts classes should be available to every Montana student.**
☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No opinion
- 3) **Are you aware of the Montana Arts Council (MAC) and its programs?**
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 4) **Would you like to receive more information about MAC programs?**
☐ Yes ☐ No

Some candidates also provided additional written information or comments which space prevents being included in this newsletter. However, if you would like that information, you can call the MAAE office at 406-257-5243. It is noted that in some cases, candidates stated they did not wish to receive information about the Montana Arts Council because they are already on MAC's mailing list.

"We thought it would be interesting to also know if candidates attend local arts events both in their communities and also in their schools," noted DeVos. "There are incredible examples of quality arts education programs all across the state, and we want to encourage all citizens — not just political candidates — to attend exhibits, plays, and performances on a regular basis."

If you have questions about the survey, you can call the MAAE office at 406-257-5243.

MAAE Regranting Program Proposals Sought

MAAE has grant funds available for non-profit organizations and school districts to present professional development training for educators. For applications, contact the MAAE at (406) 257-5243. *Application deadline is Jan. 31, 2001.*

District	Party	Last Name	First Name	1/Reg	1/Occ	1/Never	1a/Reg.	1a/Occ.	1a/Never	2/agree	2/disag	2/no op.	3/yes	3/no	4/yes	4/no	note
S. of Pub. I.	Democrat	McCulloch	Linda	x			x			x			x		x		
S. of Pub. I.	Republican	Sollie Herman	Elaine	x			x			x			x		x		x
s04	Republican	Cole	Mack		x		x			x			x			x	
s05	Republican	Johnson	Royal C.	x			x										
s06	Democrat	Justis	Kevin		x		x										x
s07	Republican	Bohlinger	John	x			x										
s09	Republican	Bishop	Al	x			x										
s10	Democrat	Shikany	Bill	x			x										
s16	Republican	Hargrove	Don	x			x										
s17	Democrat	Fairhurst	Marcia	x			x										
s19	Reform	Sullivan Sr.	Dennis E.		x		x										
s22	Democrat	Ryan	Don		x		x										
s22	Republican	Wilson	John		x		x										
s23	Democrat	Christians	Chris	x			x										
s31	Libertarian	Vogel	Russell		x		x										
s32	Democrat	Cocchiarella	Vicki		x		x										
s32	Republican	Lee	Allen		x		x										
s35	Republican	Mahlum	Dale		x		x										
s35	Democrat	Scott	Andrew F.		x		x										
s36	Democrat	Elliot	Jim		x		x										
s38	Republican	Keenan	Bob	y			y										
s42	Republican	O'Neil	Jerry		x		x										
s43	Democrat	Roush	Glenn A.		x		x										
s50	Republican	McNutt	Walter L.		x		x										
USR	Democrat	Keenan	Nancy	x			x										
USS	Democrat	Schweitzer	Brian	x			x										
3	Democrat	Dahlman	Jean	x			x										
8	Democrat	Longan	Rose Emily	x			x										
8	Republican	Olson	Alan	x			x										
10	Democrat	Court	Jim	x			x										
10	Republican	Peterson	Art	x			x										
11	Democrat	Gillan	Kim	x			x										
12	Democrat	Logan	Ed		x		x										
13	Democrat	Hurdle	Joan		x		x										
14	Democrat	Bourque Moss	Lynda	x			x										
15	Republican	Fuchs	Daniel C.		x		x										
15	Democrat	Greenfield	Jeff		x		x										
16	Democrat	Forrester	Gary L.	x			x										
17	Democrat	Branac	Gary	x			x										
17	Republican	DiLorenzo	Paul J.		x		x										
19	Republican	Lange	Michael		x		x										
20	Democrat	Gibson	Carol		x		x										
22	Democrat	Huestis	Marilyn R.	x			x										
23	Democrat	Scanlin	Elizabeth	x			x										
25	Republican	Esp	John		x		x										

District	Party	Last Name	First Name	1/Reg	1/Occ	1/Never	1a/Reg.	1a/Occ.	1a/Never	2/agree	2/disag	2/no op.	3/yes	3/no	4/yes	4/no	note
26	Democrat	Lee	Michelle	x								x	x		x		x
27	Democrat	Velazquez	Tracy	x			x			x			x		x		x
28	Republican	Younkin	Cindy		x				x								
29	Republican	Smiley	Sandra Lee		x							x	x			x	x
31	Democrat	Hofferber	Perry	x			x			x			x		x		x
33	Democrat	Fairhurst	William	x			x			x			x		x		
37	Democrat	Cyr	Larry		x			x		x			x		x		
38	Reform	Sullivan	Kathryn		x			x		x				x			
40	Republican	Masolo	Gay Ann		x			x		x			x			x	x
42	Democrat	Schmidt		x				x		x			x		x		
43	Democrat	Callahan	Tim		x			x		x				x			
47	Democrat	Tropila	Joe		x			x		x							
51	Democrat	Allen	Keith		x			x		x				x			
53	Democrat	Kaufmann	Christine	x				x		x							
54	Republican	Shanahan	Ward		x			x		x							
56	Democrat	Maxwell	Philip E.	x			x			x				x			
57	Democrat	Laslovich	Jesse		x			x		x				x			
58	Democrat	Daneke	Dennis		x			x		x				x			
60	Republican	Walters	Allan		x			x		x				x			
61	Libertarian	Jerde	Erik			x					x					x	
62	Democrat	Belangie-Nye	Jean Ellen	x			x			x						x	x
62	Constitution	Hatch	Lou		x				x								
62	Republican	Waddill	Butch		x				x					x			
63	Democrat	Rimel	John		x			x		x							
64	Democrat	Erickson	Ron		x			x		x						x	x
64	Republican	Fisher	Amy		x				x	x							
65	Democrat	Buzzas	Rosalie	x			x			x							
66	Constitution	Matthew-Jenkins	Kandi		x			x		x						x	
67	Democrat	Facey	Tom		x			x		x							
68	Republican	Bailey	George		x			x		x							
68	Democrat	Wanzennried	David E.		x			x		x							
70	Democrat	Raser	Holly		x			x		x							
73	Constitution	Jore	Rick		x			x			x					x	x
74	Democrat	Guns	Jack		x			x		x							
75	Republican	Fisher	Stanley M.		x					x							x
77	Constitution	Martin	Timothy		x			x			x						
78	Republican	Somerville	Roger		x			x		x						x	x
80	Republican	Lawson	Bob		x			x		x							
82	Democrat	Carney	Eileen		x			x		x							
86	Republican	Holden	Linda L.		x					x							
90	Democrat	Hagener	Antoinette		x					x							
91	Democrat	Musgrove	John L.		x					x							
94	Republican	Price	William R.		x			x		x							
95	Democrat	Arnold	Art		x					x							
95	Republican	Pattison	Jeff		x					x						x	

*Sent additional comments; call 406-257-5243 for details

Join Us! Become a Member!

Montana Alliance for Arts Education is Montana's only organization promoting all the arts. To become a member of the Montana Alliance for Arts Education, complete this coupon and mail it to:

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We Need you!*

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State Symphonies and MAAE Plan Spring Arts Conference

The Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras and the Montana Alliance for Arts Education will sponsor an arts conference for arts volunteers and administrators May 5-6 in Kalispell. Targeted for volunteers who are involved with arts organizations, the conference provides training from top notch national speakers, priced at Montana rates. MASO and the MAAE have collaborated on this conference in the past, and evaluations have been outstanding! Mark your calendars to save the date. For registration information, contact John Barsness, MASO Exec. Director, at 406-585-9551.

Art Interscholastics Dates Set

The annual Art Interscholastics — "On the Edge" — will be April 27 and 28 in Billings. More than 300 students attend this festive event celebrating the excellence of Montana's student artists. For more information, contact Linda Browning at 406-273-6301.

MDAA Hosts Fall Dance Workshops

More than 300 young Montana dancers, ages 10 through high school, attended the annual Montana Dance Arts Association fall workshops Oct. 20-22 in Bozeman. This annual training affords Montana dancers the opportunity for training in ballet, tap, jazz, and modern dance with world class instructors. Added this year was instruction in tango, swing, and ballroom dancing.

Climaxing the workshop was a swing dance performance for the public featuring Swing Dance America, a touring group from New York.

The MDAA also announced that the 2001 fall workshops will take place in Great Falls when the students have a break for the annual Teachers' Convention.

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Rhythm

— the newsletter of the
Montana Alliance for
Arts Education (MAAE)

P.O. Box 1498 • Kalispell, MT 59903
(406) 756-6565

The MAAE is a non-profit organization
dedicated to supporting, assisting and advocating
for quality arts education in all the arts for all Montanans.

The MAAE is a component of the Education Program of the
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

MAAE Accomplishments in 1990-91

- The OPI Arts Specialist position was to be filled after a year's vacancy, but recent cuts in state funding to state agencies has further delayed this action. Lobbying to fill this vacancy has remained a top priority for MAAE throughout the year.
- MAAE continues to monitor, and to coordinate testimony against action taken by the School Administrators of Montana to change Rule 10.55.903 Basic Education Program: Junior High and Grades 7 and 8 Budgeted at High School Rates. The proposed changes would have a negative impact on arts education.
- The Second Spring All-Arts Event, a three-day training conference for rural teachers, was co-sponsored by MAAE, OPI, and the Montana Arts Council. This conference provided a unique opportunity for teachers to experience hands-on training in the arts.
- MAAE is collaborating with Western Montana College's Drug Education Program to solicit the services of *

<i>Inside</i>	• Accreditation Standards	p.5
<i>This</i>	• MAAE Annual Meeting	p.9
<i>Issue</i>	• Kennedy Center News	p.10
	• Toyota Grant in Billings	p.4
	• March Regional Arts Conference	p.8

PLEASE RETURN

MAAE Accomplishments in 1990-91 (continued)

individuals interested in developing arts lesson plans emphasizing self-esteem and drug prevention.

- The Montana Arts Education Week, sponsored by MAAE, was held in April during the 1991 legislative session. Students from Helena, Twin Bridges, and St. Ignatius performed in the State Capitol Rotunda where student artwork was exhibited.
- MAAE collaborated with ten other arts organizations from Montana, including MIAF and the Montana Arts Council, in submitting a grant application to the NEA. If funded, MAAE plans to develop other teacher institutes in dance, drama, creative writing, and music, using the

Montana Visual Arts Institute as a model.

- Robin Bailey was hired as Executive Director of MAAE in the fall of 1990. This is a one-quarter time position, but Robin has already submitted four grant proposals, coordinated board development and reorganization, and served as the fiscal agent for two collaboration programs.
- Chairman Chuck Manning hosted a MAAE summer retreat at his cabin on Flathead Lake. The meeting culminated in a discussion of the role of MAAE in relationship with other state arts organizations. MAAE does not want to duplicate services of the other groups, but rather advocate, support, and improve education in all the arts for all Montanans. ❖

Montana Music Educators Pull Together

The Montana Music Educators Association (MMEA) and its five affiliate organizations represent roughly 500 music teachers or prospective teachers who reach every student in Montana's schools. The affiliates are Montana General Music Teachers Association (MGMTA), the Montana String Teachers Association (MSTA), the Montana Bandmasters Association (MBA), the Montana Choral Directors Association

(MCDA), and the College Music Educators Association (CMENC). The latter are college students enrolled in music education programs.

These groups are proud of the standards they have helped set, and of the communication networking they have achieved. Through their combined efforts, the music educators have seen an increase in the quality of adjudication and performance at state and district music festivals. "With ❖

the addition of the MMEA president to the Montana High School Association (MHSA) music committee, the MHSA chairperson to the MMEA executive board, and the formation of the Councils of Festivals and Assemblies," says

Helena High School's Choral Director, David Buness, "we have now completed a circle of communication that has had a very positive result for all three organizations, and for music education in general." ❖

Montana Dance Arts News

In June, 1991, the Creative Arts Center of Helena, Helena Presents, and the Mount Helena Dance Academy once again joined forces to present the "DANCE THE DIVIDE" two-week workshop for Montana dancers. The workshop featured the acclaimed New York choreographer/performer, Anita Feldman. Other notable workshop leaders were Anna Paskevskaja of the School of Chicago Ballet (author of several dance books); Chris Kerber, principal dancer with the Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago dance company; and Beck Newell, co-founder of Helena's Aleph Movement Theater. Over sixty students and teachers participated in ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, and modern dance classes.

The highlight of the two weeks was a performance by "ANITA FELDMAN TAP". The New York Times called this group "the finest and the freshest ... a shimmering of steps and sounds." Audience members were introduced to the "tap dance instrument," a multi-tonal floor developed by Feldman, which produces

a variety of sounds. The dancers make music with their feet as they tap on the instrument. Gary Schall, master percussionist with Feldman, offered percussion workshops which explored African and Latin rhythms, polyrhythms, and syncopated rhythms.

The first Montana Dance Arts Association's Teachers' Workshop, held in June at the Creative Arts Center, provided the opportunity for Montana dance teachers to work with the above-named guest instructors, as well as Karen Kaufmann (creative movement in the classroom) and Phillip Broadbent, former member of the Kiel Opera Ballet in West Germany. In addition to ballet, tap, and jazz theory, the workshop focused on teaching creative movement, partnering, teaching the developmentally disabled, ballet variations, and percussion.

For more information, contact Charlene White, 442-6519. You may also contact Charlene about MDAA's Fall Dance Workshop scheduled for October 18, 19 and 20, 1991, at the Creative Arts Center, Helena. ❖

Alliance for Arts Education Region 6 Meeting Attended by MAAE Board Members and Executive Director

Claudette Morton, Robin Bailey and Chuck Manning joined state representatives from Washington, Alaska, and Idaho in attending a Region 6 meeting in Seattle in May. The purpose was to share information and to develop a stronger regional network of state alliances (Region 6 also includes Oregon and Hawaii). The four main topics of discussion were

board development, fundraising, membership, and regional networking.

Results of this meeting will be discussed at MAAE's October meeting, along with a briefing on Kennedy Center's education department reorganization, long-range planning for the AAE network, and presentations related to the arts' role in the national education reform movement. ♦

Toyota Grant Sparks Billings-Bair Partnership

Through the Toyota grant program, the Billings Schools and the Alberta Bair Theater have initiated an arts partnership with multiple benefits for this Eastern Montana community. As one of fourteen teams across the nation, Sandy Mossman, executive director of Curriculum and Instruction for School District No. 2, and Barry Bonifas, Executive Director of the Alberta Bair Theater, attended a four-day symposium in Washington, D.C.

Symposium participants were encouraged to develop a community-based agenda for promoting the arts in schools and communities. While seeking a commonality of objectives, each of the fourteen teams developed an arts plan for their individual community.

The Billings plan will focus on three distinctly different dance forms:

Ballet West, the Martha Graham Dance Company, and the Muntu African Dance Company. With a goal of "demystifying" the arts, the Billings schools will work with the Alberta Bair Board to develop performance-based training for teachers, parents and community members. The school system will cooperate by providing time for professional development, encouraging the development of instructional materials, and by assisting in the dissemination of information. Planned workshops, seminars, and field trips will result in (1) increased attendance at theater events by teachers and students, (2) long-term audience development, and (3) cultural enrichment of the community.

The Toyota grant program will continue into 1992, adding an additional fourteen teams. ♦

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Re: Rule 10.55.903 Basic Education Program: Junior High and Grades 7 and 8 budgeted at high school rates.

The Montana Alliance for Arts Education is monitoring carefully and critically all proposals to change Rule 10.55.903 Basic Education Program: Junior High and Grades 7 and 8 budgeted at high school rates.

At the July MAAE retreat, the board reappraised its testimony at the Board of Public Education meeting in March recommending a standard of 1/4 unit each year in arts and in music. We had been concerned that a 1/4 unit might become a maximum rather than a minimum.

As a possible compromise, the MAAE board considered the School Administrators of Montana (SAM) "balance in program" concept, but only if the OPI monitors junior high arts and music programs with the same procedure used to evaluate middle schools. (This procedure was developed to evaluate middle schools without a Carnegie Unit designation.) "Balance in program," according to

SAM, "shall mean that instructional activities are designed and scheduled to provide the appropriate content and intensity which allows students the opportunity to meet learner goals as developed by each district."

Neither the OPI nor the education board has taken an official position to date. The Board of Public Education may consider this issue in October.

Because the arts are becoming increasingly vital in our lives today, we must assure that they are an integral part of our children's education, and the earlier the better.

MAAE members encourage you to discuss this standard with your school superintendent, OPI staff, SAM personnel, or a Board of Public Education official. You may wish to write or call MAAE chairman, Charles Manning, P.O. Box 1498, Kalispell, Montana 59903-1498 (756-6565), or call MAAE Executive Director, Robin Bailey, at 257-3241. ♦

Arts Council Receives New Federal Grants

The Montana Arts Council recently received notification that five federal grants totaling \$237,000 were recommended for special projects that will broaden the scope of arts activities supported and offered in the state.

The grants will come from money that became available this year specifically for rural projects.

The Council also received an extension on a \$19,900 grant it had *

(continued on P. 8)

MAAE Board of Directors

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Art Specialist, School District #5
Kalispell

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Western Montana College
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Montana Arts Council
Helena

Why should you become a member of the Montana Alliance for Arts Education?

- The Montana Alliance for Arts Education is the only statewide group that is working to improve and promote education in all the arts (dance, music, theater, visual arts and crafts, media and creative writing) throughout the state of Montana.
- The Montana Alliance for Arts Education keeps members informed about important potential changes in school accreditation standards, teacher recertification standards, and other governance issues. Many of these issues directly affect how and what teachers must teach in our schools.
- The Montana Alliance for Arts Education is a network of people just like you from across our state. Rural school teachers, art and music teachers, school administrators, elementary teachers, English/language arts teachers, administrators of arts organizations — all Montanans interested in arts education can keep in touch through the MAAE.
- For only \$10 per year, you can receive our new *Rhythm* newsletter twice a year and become involved with exciting arts education work all over Montana.

To become a member of the Montana Alliance for Arts Education, complete this coupon and mail to: **MAAE; P.O. Box 1498; Kalispell, MT 59903.**

This is ☐ a personal membership (\$10 per year)

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This is ☐ a new membership

☐ a renewal

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address (please use: home address for personal membership OR organization address for organizational membership)		
city	state	zip code
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Thank you very much for your membership in the MAAE. We look forward to working with you!

State Symphony Organization Plans Regional Arts Conference

The Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras plans its fourth biennial regional arts conference for March 7, 8, and 9, 1992, in Missoula. The Missoula Symphony Association will host the conference and perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

Designed for volunteer leaders of non-profit organizations, staff members, and supporters of the arts, the conference brings to Montana noted national speakers on such topics as long-range planning for arts organizations, fund raising, marketing, and recruitment and recognition of volunteers. It also highlights successful partnerships of arts organizations, businesses, and schools. Opportunities for delegates and speakers to share ideas, successes, questions and challenges make the conference a "hands-on" training experience.

Arts Grants *(cont.)*

previously received to establish model sites in a program aimed at making the arts a basic part of educational offerings in a school or school district.

Following is a summary of the grants:

- \$119,500 to support the efforts of nine statewide service organizations, including the Montana Alliance for

"We know that the opportunity for people who volunteer for the arts to gain quality training is limited because few organizations have budgets permitting volunteers and staff to attend many national conferences," said conference chairman Carolyn Valacich, executive director of the Great Falls Symphony. "So, we bring the experts to Montana and the response has been outstanding! Since the first MASO conference, we have seen tremendous growth in the state's arts organizations and we know that the training offered at this conference has contributed to that growth."

A grant from Montana's Cultural Trust makes registration fees reasonable, and organizations are encouraged to send several delegates.

To receive a brochure about the conference, contact Conference Chairman, Carolyn Valacich at the Great Falls Symphony, P. O. Box 1079, Great Falls, MT 59403. ♦

Arts Education, that will provide programs benefiting artists and organizations in rural and other underserved communities.

- \$50,000, over a two-year period, to contract with a person to provide technical assistance to developing local arts agencies and arts agencies in *

(continued on P. 12)

● Alliance Received State Grants to Expand Programs

The Montana Alliance for Arts Education has received a grant from the Montana Cultural Trust and a grant from the Montana Arts Council to assist with MAAE programs and planning.

"Until last year, all Alliance activities were done by a very few dedicated volunteers," said Chairman Chuck Manning. "We are pleased that these grants will help us employ a part-

time executive director who will coordinate the volunteers' efforts and add continuity to alliance undertakings. The grants will also enable us to assist with communication among arts organizations in the state which have an interest in arts education and to better monitor activities affecting arts education."

The \$5,000 Cultural Trust grant covers a two-year period, while the \$2,000 MAC grant is for the 1991-92 year. ❖

MAAE Annual Meeting Set

Plans are being finalized for the Montana Alliance for Arts Education annual meeting which is set for Friday, November 1, 1991, in Helena.

The meeting will include highlights from Stanford University professor Elliot Eisner's speech delivered to graduate students at the University of Montana Art Institute this past summer. The meeting will feature a viewing of "The Power to Imagine," an outstanding video on the value of creativity produced through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, by the Alaska Alliance for Arts Education.

Election of MAAE officers and board of directors will also take place. Nominees for vacant board positions are:

Karen Kaufmann, Missoula
Deborah Mensik, Thompson Falls

The slate of officers is:

Chairman	Chuck Manning
Chair-elect	Claudette Morton
Secretary	Charlene White
Treasurer	Corwin Clairmont

Nancy Coopersmith represents the Office of Public Instruction on the Board, and Julie Smith represents the Montana Arts Council.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Creative Arts Center, 38 N. Last Chance Gulch in Helena, and will conclude by 3 p.m. Members of MAAE and those interested in arts education in Montana are invited. Reservations are requested by Oct. 28 and can be made by contacting MAAE at Box 1498, Kalispell, 59903, or by phoning 756-6565. ❖

from the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education

The Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education, a network of 45 nonprofit state organizations, including MAAE, has just released its 1990 annual report. In 1990, state Alliance programs reached more than four million people throughout the United States. Kennedy Center grants of \$148,573 to the states generated more than \$2 million in cash match, and more than \$2 million in in-kind contributions nationwide.

The national alliance is responsible for generating a broad range of activities, programs and services. The following are some highlights:

- After the **Kentucky** Supreme Court declared the state's educational system unconstitutional, the court defined the arts as one of seven essential "capacities" the school system must provide every child. The Kentucky Alliance made recommendation to legislators responsible for restructuring the statewide curriculum.
- The **Oklahoma** Alliance, in cooperation with other state arts

organizations, helped secure the passage of a major educational reform bill that includes a fine arts requirement for high school graduation.

- Many state alliances focused conferences on topics related specifically to arts and education. **Hawaii's** state conference offered school-based models on the role of the arts in creative thinking. Alliances in **Indiana, Washington, and Maine** collaborated with state humanities councils to present conferences.
- The state alliances took a variety of approaches in response to the national initiative seeking to develop and strengthen collaborations between schools, communities, and cultural institutions. **New York and Virginia** alliances developed programs to recognize families who take their children to a predetermined number of performances, exhibitions, and other cultural events. These programs are directly responsible for a 25-35 percent increase in parent participation in cultural and artistic events. ♦

● Big Sky Telegraph

Ever had a great idea you wanted to share with others? Needed information or suggestions from others? Wanted to informally sample your peers' feelings about a certain subject, but didn't have a way to do it? Wanted to write a short article for the world to read?

Big Sky Telegraph (BST) might be your answer. BST is a computer bulletin board and electronic network at Western Montana College in Dillon that can connect you with hundreds of educators, business people and others throughout Montana. It can provide you access to library resources, on-line education databases, electronic mail networking, computer conferencing and more. For more information, or to get connected, write Frank Odasz, Director, Big Sky Telegraph, Western Montana College, Dillon, MT 59725-3598. Call 683-7338, or toll free 1-800-WMC-MONT. ❖

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This newsletter is also supported in part by a grant from the **Montana Arts Council**, an agency of state government.

The Arts Reach "Very Special" Populations

Very Special Arts Montana's recent projects have brought increased arts experiences to individuals with disabilities. VSAM's goal is to expand services throughout the state.

A statewide project to take arts activities into all of Montana's group homes each month was supported by a Montana Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council grant. VSAM has contracted with Montana artist/educator Suzanne Shope to take leadership in developing curriculum and videotaping model sites.

Videotaped projects, featuring actual group home staff and residents, and curriculum guides will be sent monthly to all group homes. One project, developed at a group home in Browning, will have a Native American theme. This project, which serves primarily Native American residents, may serve as a national model for Very Special Arts programs.

In an attempt to reach new populations, VSAM held a series of 18 workshops at Bozeman's Eaglemount Center for Therapeutic Recreation this spring and summer. Workshops were conducted by three Bozeman artists (visual artists Ernie Pepion ❖

"Special" Populations (cont.)

and Tina DeWeese, and musician Eric Funk) for approximately 40 people. Some exceptional work came from the workshops, and was displayed at the Sweet Pea Festival in Bozeman in August. The highlight of VSAM's programs and exhibits was a performance by singer, poet and song writer Greg Keeler which was attended by hundreds and brought the house down. ♦

New Grants (cont.)

• \$40,000 to support the established rural arts organizations whose financial bases have eroded over the past several years.

• \$10,000 to fund five Indian folk arts apprenticeships.

• \$17,566 to pass through to the Missoula Cultural Exchange, for its first full-time executive director.

The extension received for the \$19,900 Arts in Education grant will allow the Council to select three model sites around the state. These sites will develop plans for making the arts basic to their curricula within three to five years. The plans can then be modified for other school districts and communities.

In other Arts Council news, artists services director Julie Smith is on maternity leave until Jan. 6. Martha Sprague is the interim director. ♦

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